

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:) Attorney Docket No.: F-722
Ronald P. Sansone, et al) Group Art Unit: 3628
Serial No: 10/674,134) Examiner: Shannon S. Saliard
Filed: September 29, 2003) Date: October 3, 2007
Confirmation No.: 2499) Customer No.: 00919
Title: METHOD FOR POSTAGE EVIDENCING WITH CROSS-BORDER
MAIL TRACKING CAPABILITY AND NEAR REAL TIME FOR
TERMINAL DUES RECONCILIATION

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on
August 10, 2007.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Pitney Bowes Inc. is the real party in interest.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/673,794 entitled "METHOD FOR POSTAGE EVIDENCING FOR THE PAYMENT OF TERMINAL DUES USING RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS" is currently being appealed to the Board of Appeals.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Claims 1 – 10 are in the application.

B. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected.

C. Claims 1 – 10 are on appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An amendment subsequent to the May 11, 2007, Final Rejection was filed on July 5, 2007. This amendment was not entered.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The Universal Postal Union has a complex system that administers contracts between member post offices relating to terminal dues paid between and among different post offices. Terminal dues are the payments made between national postal administrations to cover the costs of handling and delivering international mail. Rates are established by the Universal Postal Union and through bilateral and multilateral agreements. Typically, a post office will charge another post office for the delivery of mail to a recipient within its

jurisdiction. For instance, if mail is sent from the United States to the United Kingdom, the United States post office will deliver the mail to the Royal Mail, and the Royal Mail will deliver the mail to the recipient. At the end of a predetermined time, the United States post office and the Royal Mail will tabulate, by weight, all of the mail each post office delivered for the other post office and calculate how much money one post office owes to the other post office.

One of the disadvantages of the above procedure is that it does not accurately determine the services performed by each post office.

A further disadvantage of the prior art is that mail did not have an indication of the value of the services produced by different post offices.

This invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by making it easier for various post offices to calculate accurately terminal dues by providing information to the post office regarding each piece or parcel of mail that crosses an international border. The invention also makes it easier for the post offices to calculate terminal dues by obtaining fee information from mail that is sent internationally.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim in this patent application. Claim 1 is a method for paying a carrier located in a second country for mail that has been deposited and paid for by a sender to a first carrier located in a first country to be delivered by a second carrier located in a second country to a recipient located in the second country. Claim 1 includes the following steps:

- charging a sender's meter for mail that is being deposited with a first carrier;

- transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center;

transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center located in the first country the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and

transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center located in the second country the funds attributable to the second carrier.

The invention claimed in claim 1 is explained in in Fig. 6, and paragraph 0033 of pages 13 - 15 of Appellants' Patent Application.

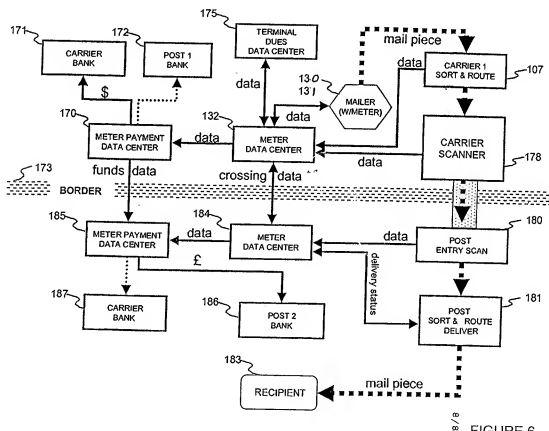


FIGURE 6

[033] Fig. 6 is a block diagram illustrating the process of the payment of terminal dues. When a mail piece is mailed in the United States and delivered to a destination in the United Kingdom, the mailer's postage meter 130, 131 will place

a United States Postal Indicia 20 (Fig. 1A) on mail 21 for that portion of the delivery cost that is attributable to the United States post office and a Royal Mail postal indicia 31 (Fig. 1A) on the mail 21 for that portion of the delivery cost that is attributable to the Royal Mail. Meter 130, 131 will also notify remote data center 132 that is located in the United States that the mail piece has been metered for the correct international mail values for mail being deposited in the United States and delivered in the United Kingdom. Mail 21 will be sorted and routed by the United States Postal Service in block 107. As the mail approaches the United States border 173, the face of mail 31 is scanned and interpreted by carrier scanner 178, and the interpreted data is sent to a United States remote data center 132 which transmits data to a United States meter payment data center 170 that accumulates the United States postage payment for that meter and periodically sends the payments to the carrier's bank 171 and/or the United States post office bank 172. The United States remote meter data center 132 also informs the Royal Mail meter data center 184 of the future delivery of the previously metered mail 21 to the United Kingdom along with a report of the amount of postage attributable to the Royal Mail and the unique identification number or code 18 (Fig. 1A), 50 (Fig. 1B), 60 (Fig. 1C) that identifies the mail. When mail arrives in the United Kingdom it is scanned at post entry scan 180 so that the mail unique identification number or code 19, 50, 60 and amount of postage on the face of the mail will be interpreted and forwarded to the Royal Mail meter data center 184. At the Royal Mail data center 184 the data will be stored and in turn forwarded to the Royal Mail meter payment data center 185, which notifies the Royal Mail 181 to continue to deliver the mail to the recipient 183. At the same time, the Royal Mail data center 184 notifies the United States postal service meter data center 132 of the confirmation of delivery of the mail and the United States postal service meter data center 132 can provide mail tracking information to the original sender. The Royal Mail data center 184 will inform the Royal Mail Payment center 185 that the mail is in the United Kingdom, and that it will receive funds from the United States meter payment data center 170. The Royal Mail meter payment center 185 accumulates funds and

periodically sends the funds to the United Kingdom carrier bank 187 and/or the Royal Mail bank 186.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

A. Whether or not claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 are patentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kadaba U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0215480 in view of Brookner et al., U.S. Patent number 7,120,610.

B. Whether or not claims 3 and 5 are patentable over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to claim 2 and 4 above, and further in view of Konick [US 2003/0115162].

C. Whether or not claims 6 and 7 are patentable over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480]. In view of Brookner et al [US 7, 120,610] as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351].

D. Whether or not claim 9 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351] and Ashaari (U.S. 2004/0188522).

VII. ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) over under 35 USC §103(a) over Kadaba U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0215480 in view of Brookner et al., U.S. Patent number 7,120,610.

The Examiner states the following on page 5 of the Final Rejection.

"As per claim 1, Kadaba discloses a method comprising the steps of: a sender metering, by a sender, mail that is being deposited with a first carrier [0053]; transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center the

funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center the funds attributable to the second carrier [0098]. Kadaba does not explicitly disclose a first carrier located in a first country and a second carrier located in a second country. However, it is obvious that the carriers can be located in any country because the payments are made and transmitted electronically. It has been well established that communicating to someone electronically can take place anywhere in the world. Furthermore, it is well known by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that mail is delivered internationally using more than one shipper. For example, a package being delivered from the US to France would utilize the services of the USPS for initial handling and La Poste (French Postal Service) for final delivery."

Kadaba discloses the following in paragraph 0053.

[0053] "The shipper's computer system 20 has software distributed by the first carrier making it configured to record the PLD information necessary to sort, meter and ship each of the packages. In one example, the computer system 20 of the shipper 11 is connectable over the network 21 to a web server (not shown) of the first carrier computer system 22. The web server of the first carrier computer system is configured to send data across the network to display web pages on the shipper computer system 20. Alternatively, the shipper 11 could be directly equipped with software downloaded from the first carrier computer system 22, or sent on media by the first carrier for installation on the shipper computer system 20. "

Kadaba discloses the following in paragraph 0098.

[0098] "Billing by the second carrier is implemented by a portion the second carrier computer system 23 which is connected in communication with the verification system 43 and is configured to receive the daily manifest therefrom. Also connected in communication with the second carrier computer system 23 is an escrow account 229 (set up at initiation of the system 10) from which the second carrier can withdraw funds for payment of the fees associated with each daily manifest. In this manner, the

second carrier always has immediate access to funds once it has received and completed auditing of the daily manifest.”

Kadaba utilizes a manifest to bill the second carrier.

The Examiner stated above that it is well known by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that mail is delivered internationally using more than one shipper. For example, a package being delivered from the U.S. to France would utilize the services of the U.S.P.S. for initial handling and La Poste for final delivery. The Examiner stated the current condition. However, the Examiner did not state the problem the posts are having with the current condition namely, how to accurately pay each post for the services they perform for delivering metered mail i.e. mail that is paid for by a postal indicia affixed to the mail piece and charged to a meter.

Currently the Universal Postal Union has a complex system that administers contracts between member post offices relating to terminal dues paid between and among different post offices. Terminal dues are the payments made between national postal administrations to cover the costs of handling and delivering international mail. Rates are established by the Universal Postal Union and through bilateral and multilateral agreements. Typically, a post office will charge another post office for the delivery of mail to a recipient within its jurisdiction. For instance, if mail is sent from the United States to France, the United States post office will deliver the mail to the La Poste and the La Poste will deliver the mail to the recipient. At the end of a predetermined time, the United States post office and the La Poste will tabulate, by weight, all of the mail each post office delivered for the other post office and calculate how much money one post office owes to the other post office.

One of the disadvantages of the above procedure is that it does not accurately determine the services performed by each post office.

An additional disadvantage of the prior art is that each post office was not sure that it was receiving the proper amount of money for the services it was performing.

A further disadvantage of the prior art is that mail did not have an indication of the value of the services produced by different post offices.

This invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by making it easier for various post offices to calculate accurately terminal dues by providing information to the post office regarding each piece or parcel of mail that crosses an international border by utilizing a meter.

The Examiner states the following in pages 5 and 6 of the Final Rejection.

"Kadaba does not disclose charging a sender's meter and transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center; and transmitting from the meter data sender funds attributable to the carrier. However, Brookner et al discloses the meter data center communicates with sender franking machine to obtain transaction records to account for postage consumption [col 6, lines 7-24]. Brookner et al further discloses the meter data center initiates payment to a first carrier by transmitting the postage franked by the meter to a settlement center to initiate funds. If transfer to a carrier [col 8, lines 6-11]."

Brookner discloses the following in Column 6 lines 7-47.

"FIG. 5 illustrates the postage finance arrangement in accordance with the invention where data center 503 communicates with franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N to, among other things, obtain therefrom franking transaction records from time to time to account for their postage consumptions, respectively, where N represents an integer greater than or equal to one. In this illustrative embodiment, each of franking systems 505-1 through 505-N is structurally identical to system 100 described above. Data center 503 comprises computer system 507 which is capable of communicating data with selected ones of franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N via communication connections established by modem pool 509. These connections may be, e.g., dial-up connections, Internet connections, etc. The data communications between data center 503 and the franking systems may be in accordance with the protocol disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,715:164 issued Feb. 3, 1998 to Liechti et al. In this illustrative embodiment, computer system 507 initiates communications with franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N periodically to obtain the respective transaction records, from which the postage consumptions for the period is derived in a

manner described below. Such postage consumptions are then accounted for by charging same to the accounts associated with the franking systems, where such accounts may be checking accounts, debit accounts, credit accounts, revolving credit accounts, profunded accounts, escrow accounts, etc., held by one or more financial institutions. To that end, system 507 maintains database 540 therein, which contains financial account records concerning the respective franking systems served by data center 503. Alternatively, database 540 may be remote from data center 503.

FIG. 6 illustrates the format of each financial account record in database 540. In this instance, each franking system is identified by a PSD serial number in field 603 pre-assigned to its PSD. Field 605 contains intonation concerning the financial account associated with the franking system, which includes a financial account number, and data identifying the financial institution with which the account is maintained."

Brookner discloses the following in Column 8, line 6-17.

"In response, settlement system 565 causes transfer of funds in the amount of the franked postage from the financial account associated with franking system 100 to a predetermined postal authority account. System 565 then sends to postal authority computer 550 a message indicating the completion of the funds transfer.

Postal authority computer 550 may analyze and/or audit the franking transaction records of franking system 100 for any reporting cycle, which were forwarded thereto by data center 503, to verify whether the amount of the funds transferred to the postal authority account matches the postage consumed by system 100 in that cycle."

Brookner discloses only one postal authority i.e. postal authority computer 550.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of Claim 1, namely transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center located in the first country the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and

transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center located in the second country the funds attributable to the second carrier.

The art cited by the Examiner also does not disclose the payment of funds to a first carrier meter payment center located in a first country and the transfer of funds to a second meter payment center located in a second country.

An advantage of the invention claimed in claim 1 is that a material may be photocopied and someone may change the switching contacts on the material by drawing lines with a pencil or ball point pen.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in rejecting a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner is charged with the initial burden for providing a factual basis to support the obviousness conclusion. *In re Warner*, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 USPQ 173 (CCPA 1967); *in re Lunsford*, 375 F.2d 385, 148 USPQ 721 (CCPA 1966); *in re Freed*, 425 F.2d 785, 165 USPQ 570 (CCPA 1970). The Examiner is also required to explain how and why one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify an applied reference and/or combine applied references to arrive at the claimed invention. *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Deuel*, 51 F.3d 1552, 34 USPQ 1210 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *in re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 USPQ2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988). In establishing the requisite motivation, it has been consistently held that both the suggestion and reasonable expectation of success must stem from the prior art itself, as a whole. *In re Ochiai*, supra; *in re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *in re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *in re Dow Chemical Co.*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 USPQ2d 1529 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

B. Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to claim 2 and 4 above, and further in view of Konick [US 2003/0115162].

Claim 3 depends on claim 2, which depends on claim 1.

In claim 2 the funds attributable to the first country carrier are determined by the following steps:

- determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;
- determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and
- determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.

Claim 3 adds the additional step of to claim 2::

- determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.

Claim 5 depends on claim 4, which depends on claim 1.

In claim 4 the funds attributable to the second country carrier are determined by the following steps:

- determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;
- determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and
- determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.

Claim 5 adds the additional step of to claim 4:

- determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.

In addition to the arguments made in above Section A please consider the following.

Claim 3

Konick discloses the following in paragraph 0167.

[0167] "In the preferred embodiment of the V-STAMP Shipper shown in FIG. 7 (front) and FIG. 8 (back), the originator can designate the special shipping services desired on the V-STAMP Shipper. Another embodiment of the invention would be to have separate, distinct, V -STAMP Shippers for each special shipping service required. In either embodiment, the V-STAMP Shipper is used in conjunction with the V-STAMP label to uniquely and securely identify the originator of the package or mail, and designate an existing account against which the cost of the special shipping services designated are charged."

While Konick may charge a sender for special handling of a mail item,.
Konick does not disclose or anticipate paying a first carrier only for the funds
attributable to the costs of the first carrier as claimed in Claim 3.

Claim 5

Konick discloses the following in paragraph 0167.

[0167] "In the preferred embodiment of the V-STAMP Shipper shown in FIG. 7 (front) and FIG. 8 (back), the originator can designate the special shipping services desired on the V-STAMP Shipper. Another embodiment of the invention would be to have separate, distinct, V -STAMP Shippers for each special shipping service required. In either embodiment, the V-STAMP Shipper is used in conjunction with the V-STAMP label to uniquely and securely identify the originator of the package or mail, and designate an existing account against which the cost of the special shipping services designated are charged."

While Konick may charge a sender for special handling of a mail item, .
Konick does not disclose or anticipate paying a second carrier for the funds
attributable to the costs of the second carrier as claimed in Claim 5.

C. Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480]. In view of Brookner et al [US 7, 120,610] as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351].

Claim 6 depends on claim 1. Claim 6 adds the following steps to claim 1:

scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country; and

scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country, whereby
funds are transferred from the first meter payment data center to the second
country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country..

Claim 7 depends on claim 1. Claim 7 adds the following step to claim 1: placing a unique identification code on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.

In addition to the arguments made in above Section A, please consider the following:

Claim 6

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0030.

[0030] "The invention will now be described in connection with attached FIG. 1. For ease of discussion, FIG. 1 illustrates two domains. However, the invention can be used in connection with many more than two domains. Depending on how the invention is implemented, each domain may be a separate country, a separate region within a country, the territory of a public or private carrier, or a carrier's customer base (which could overlap with other carrier's customer bases). As illustrated in the upper left-hand corner of FIG. 1, a sender 100 in Domain 1 transmits a parcel using a Carrier 110 associated with Domain 1. Most likely, the Carrier 1 will scan the parcel upon receipt from the sender and upon passing-off 120 the parcel to Carrier 2 130. However, for ease of discussion, scans by the originating carrier are not illustrated in FIG. 1."

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0034.

[0034] "The elapsed time data of Carrier 1 and Carrier 2 are then sent to a central processor which processes the data in accordance with a set of rules, thereby determining a periodic balancing payment 300. Alternatively, the processor could simply calculate a penalty for each country to pay."

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0039.

[0039] "FIG. 2 tracks processing of a mailpiece on an international delivery. The process begins with step 400 when a customer mails a mailpiece. When received by the delivery service, in step 410, the mailpiece will undergo an acceptance scan, Scan A. The initial data related to the mailpiece is inputted at that point. The mailpiece next passes into a processing center, step 420, where it undergoes Scan G, an enroute processing scan. Next, step 430, the mailpiece embarks from its originating country. At this step the mailpiece undergoes a B Scan and a C Scan. These scans relate to processing in the exchange office and assignment to transportation. Step 440 is international transport. At Step 450, the mailpiece is received by the foreign country. D Scan records receipt of the mail piece at that point. Step 460 relates to

the mail piece passing through customs Scans E and F record entry into and out of customs. This information is important to the present invention as time in customs, which is beyond the control of the delivery service, is not included in the calculation of in-country processing time. Step 470 shows the mailpiece being handled at a processing plant. Another G Scan, enroute processing takes place. Step 480 notes the final delivery by the delivery service, the final time the mailpiece is handled by the delivery service. Another Scan G can take place at that point. Finally, in Step 490 the mailpiece is delivered, or delivery is attempted. Scan H corresponds to an attempted delivery. Scan I corresponds to a successful delivery."

While it is true the Wade discloses a system that scans mail when the mail goes from a first domain to a second domain. Wade does not disclose or anticipate transferring funds from the first meter payment data center to the second country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country.

Claim 7

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate adding the following limitation to claim 1, namely placing a unique identification code on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.

D. Claim 9 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35USC § 103 over Kadaba [US 2004/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351] and Ashaari (U.S. 2004/0188522).

scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country;
scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country; and
notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country In addition to the arguments made in above Section A, please consider the following.

In addition to the arguments made in above Section A, please consider the following:

The Examiner states the following in page 9 of the Final Rejection.

"As per claim 9, Kadaba does not explicitly disclose further including the steps of: scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country; scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country; and notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country. However, Wade discloses scanning the mail when it arrives at a first carrier associated with a first domain and scanning the mail when it is handed off to the second carrier associated with a second domain [0030] to determine a payment balance [0034; see Fig. 2]. Wade further discloses scanning mail when received in a foreign country [0039]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kadaba to include the method disclosed by Wade. Wade provides the motivation that delivery services can mutually track deliveries of mail and delivery performance [0013]. Furthermore, Ashaari discloses performing in-process scans of a mail item and notifying sender of the shipment status [0077]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kadaba to include the method disclosed by Wade including notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country so that the sender knows that the mail was delivered."

Paragraphs 0030, 0034, and 0039 of Wade have been set forth above.

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0013.

[0013] "An additional object of the present invention is that it provides a system and method whereby delivery services can mutually track deliveries of express mail. Where for instance one country sends its own express mail to a second country, while at the same time delivering the other country's express mail in its own country, both countries can implement the present invention. The method allows the two countries to track their own delivery performance and the other's delivery performance. Based upon certain criteria, the two countries can calculate offsets for compensation. "

Ashaari disclose the following in paragraph 0077.

[0077] " FIG. 11 is a flowchart of an induction and tracking method consistent with the present invention. At stage 1110, the system receives electronic mailing information from mailer and stores the information. At stage 1120, mailer has delivered the shipment and the system performs an induction scan. The system scans the encoded shipment identifier, matches it with the stored electronic mailing information, and notifies mailer of induction a step known as "Start the Clock". At stage 1130, the system may perform one or more in-process scans and matches, notifying mailer of the shipment status. At stage 1140, the last scan occurs and notification is made to mailer of the last scan. This stage is known as "Stop the Clock."

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate where the sender is notified when the mail piece arrives in the second country..

In view of the above Appellants respectfully submit that appealed claims 1-10 in this application are patentable. It is requested that the Board of Appeal overrule the Examiner and direct allowance of the rejected claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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VIII. APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

What is claimed is:

1. A method for paying a carrier located in a second country for mail that has been deposited and paid for by a sender to a first carrier located in a first country to be delivered by a second carrier located in a second country to a recipient located in the second country, comprising the steps of:

- charging a sender's meter for mail that is being deposited with a first carrier;

- transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center;

- transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center located in the first country the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and

- transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center located in the second country the funds attributable to the second carrier.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the funds attributable to the first country carrier are determined by the following steps:

- determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;

- determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and

- determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.

3. The method claimed in claim 2, further including the step of determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.

4. The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the funds attributable to the second country carrier are determined by the following steps:

- determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith;

- determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith; and

- determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith.

5. The method claimed in claim 4, further including the step of determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith.
6. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:
scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country; and
scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country, whereby funds are transferred from the first meter payment data center to the second country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country.
7. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
placing a unique identification code on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.
8. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
placing a unique identification number on the mail to uniquely identify the mail.
9. The method claimed in claim 1, further including the steps of:
scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country;
scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country; and
notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country.
10. The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:
delivering the mail to the recipient; and
notifying the sender of the recipient's receipt of the mail.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no additional evidence to submit.

X. RELATED PROCEEDING APPENDIX

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/673,794 entitled "METHOD FOR POSTAGE EVIDENCING FOR THE PAYMENT OF TERMINAL DUES USING RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION TAGS" is currently being appealed to the Board of Appeals.